

Setting up a bareboat charter business – what operators need to know

This information helps to explain what you need to do to set up a bareboat charter business to operate commercially in New Zealand

What is a bareboat charter?

A bareboat charter is a commercial business that offers boats for hire without a Skipper. Under Maritime Rules Part 19, a bareboat charter is a commercial operation that needs to be part of the maritime operator safety system (MOSS).

The operator needs to have a maritime transport operator certificate (MTOC). For information on how to apply for an MTOC, refer to the Maritime New Zealand website – www.maritimenz.govt.nz/moss.

What are my responsibilities as the operator of the bareboat charter business?

As the operator of the business you have a number of responsibilities.

- You need to keep your boat well maintained and in survey.
- You need to comply with all relevant maritime rules.
- You must be satisfied that the hirer is competent to take charge of the boat within the operating limits assigned to it and they will not carry more than the certified maximum number of persons on board.
- You need to fully brief the person hiring your boat so that they know how to operate it and use any of the safety equipment onboard. It's a good idea to have a vessel manual on the boat with this information in it.
- You must not charter the boat to an individual who is less than 16 years of age.
- For each charter you need to maintain a record of the full name, address and signature of the hirer, the date and time when the boat is hired and returned, and the number of persons to be carried as declared by the hirer. MNZ may ask you for this information.

What should the hirer do?

The hirer must sign a statement indicating they fully understand the operating limits and any conditions that have been placed on the boat.

The hirer (or master) must make sure the boat does not carry more than the maximum number of persons it is certified to carry.

See next page for further advice for the hirer.

FAQs

What sort of survey must my boat have?

You will need to have your boat surveyed for passengers and in accordance with Maritime Rules Part 40A.73.

Does my boat need to be registered?

If your boat is being used commercially in NZ and it is longer than 24 metres, it must be registered. Information about ship registration is available on the MNZ website or you can call us for advice.

Does the person hiring my boat have to hold a seafarer ticket?

This is not required by law, but the hirer must be at least 16 years of age.

Who can I ask if I have more questions?

- Contact your local maritime officer.
- Phone us toll free on 0508 225 522.
- Email us at enquiries@maritimenz.govt.nz.

What information must I give the person hiring my boat?

You must provide the person hiring your boat with as much information as they need to operate it safely and within the law. They will need to be fully aware of the safety equipment on board and how to use it.

Provide them with instructions on:

- correct and safe handling and navigation of the boat
- correct and safe operation of the main engine and auxiliary engine
- correct and safe operation of fuel, gas and pumping systems
- correct and safe operation of any valves or openings in the hull
- correct and safe use of the anchor
- stowage and use of lifesaving appliances
- location and use of fire appliances
- the ship's operating limits and any dangers to navigation they may come across on their journey
- Part 22 collision rules and Part 91 safety rules.

Provide copies of a plan showing the operating limits the boat can be operated in.

Provide up to date charts and publications relating to those limits.